

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, VE

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES: A FULLBRIGHT AGREEMENT

1. IN OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO FIND MEANS FOR STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES WITH VENEZEULA WE ARE CONSIDERING APPROACHING THE GOV ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A FULBRIGHT AGREEMENT.

2. THERE ARE SEVERAL INDICATIONS THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE ON OUR PART MIGHT BE TIMELY. THESE INCLUDE THE POSITIVE INITIAL GOV REACTIONS TO PROPOSALS FOR REIMBURSABLE AID TRAINING AND THE VISIT OF US AGRICULTURE EXPERTS AS A FOLLOWUP TO SECRETARY'S BUTZ'S VISIT; RAPID PROGRESS BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ON PLANNING FOR AN OPEN-UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ON THE US MODEL AND STIMULATED BY THE POST-SPONSORED VISITS OF DR. SAMUEL GOULD, AND SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT BY USIS AND CU IN THE LAST TWO YEARS OF THE CU-FUNDED ACADEMIC PROGRAM INVOLVING THE MOST IMPORTANT UNIVERSITIES HERE.

3. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE GOV IS INVESTING HEAVILY IN EDUCATION ABROAD (WITH THE MAJOR EMPHASIS ON THE US) THROUGH ITS GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO PROGRAM AND HAS EXPRESSED ACTIVE INTEREST IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. WE BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES WOULD, BY OFFERING TO NEGOTIATE A FULBRIGHT AGREEMENT NOW, DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT OF VENEZUELAN ASPIRATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS HUMAN RESOURCES. THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN THE VENEZUELAN SCHEME OF DEVELOP-

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MENT HAS BEEN UNDERScored TIME AND TIME AGAIN BY PRESIDENT

PEREZ AND OTHER VENEZUELAN LEADERS.

5. A FULLBRIGHT AGREEMENT WOULD PROVIDE AN ELEMENT OF STRUCTURE TO OUR RELATIONSHIP IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD. IT WOULD INVOLVE DISTINGUISHED VENEZULANS IN A COOPERATIVE VENTURE WITH THE US--THE KIND OF INVOLVEMENT WE SEEK IN ALL AREAS OF THIS EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES.

6. THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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